GREAT

NEWS

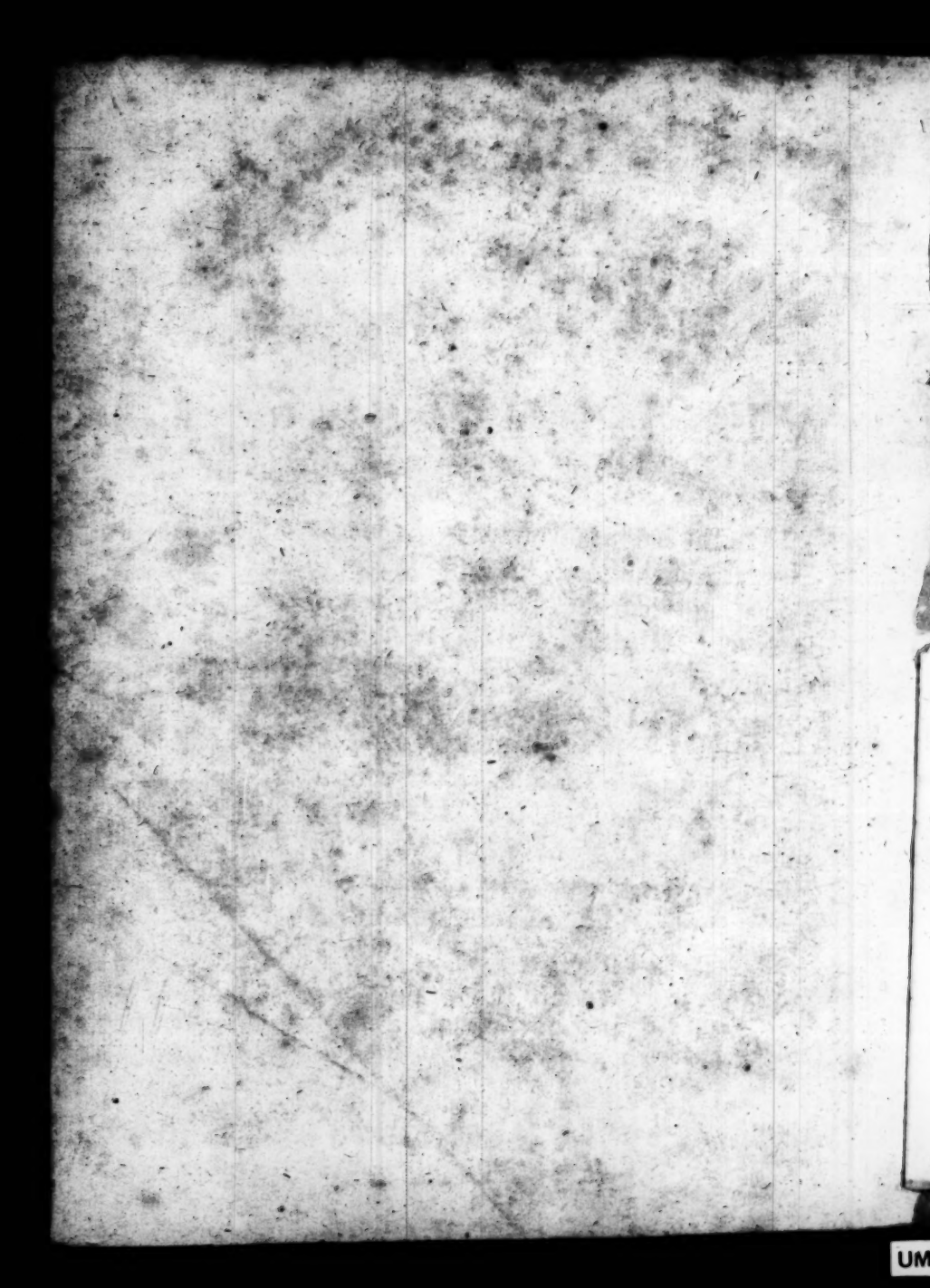
FROM THE

West-Indies;

Sent in a Letter to a Merchant of
LONDON.

November *the* 28th. 1687.
This may be Printed R. M.

LONDON:
Printed for *H. Wallis*, 1687.



GREAT NEWS FROM THE WEST-INDIES.

SIR,

THE Charge laid on me in the laſt Letter, dated the 24*th*. of *Auguſt*, of Communicating whatever might Occur worth taking Notice off, occaſioned this trouble: I now give you a Relation that connot but be ſurpriſing to ſuch as have not yet ſeen the Wonders of the Deep, tho it muſt be confeſt things of this Nature do not altogether ſo much affect one that has formerly made ſo long an Aboad amongſt us as you have done, yet this may ſerve to revive the memory of thoſe Wonders you have often ſeen, and furniſh you with ſomething New to Entertain your Friends.

The ſtory I am to tell you, is at the taking Two prodigious Monſters on the Coaſts of *Mountſerrat* where I now am, the firſt of theſe I aſſiſted at the taking, which was after this manner; About Six in the Morning we diſcovered ſomething to Wind-ward move like the Wrack of a great Ship, in which Opinion we were the more confirm'd through the laſt Nights being very Stormy and Tempeſtuous, ſome of our Fiſhers endeavour'd to get off with their Boats, but could not, the Sea breaking ſo on the ſhore; about Eight of the Clock he came ſo near us as to be perceiv'd to be a living Creature; which put us into the greateſt conſternation imaginable, there being not one of us that had ever ſeen any Sea-monſter half ſo large, (though our New Worlds abounds in the Production of various kinds). between Twelve and One of the Clock, the Sea threw him with that violence on the ſhore, that he was unable to get back again, but by beating the Sand about with his Fins, and making ſuch an hedeous Noiſe, that our Women and Children fled to the Churches for Protection,

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and other Places of ſecurity. But after that he had wearied himſelf with his violent beating and throwing the Sand about, we took Courage, and aſſail'd him on every ſide, and in leſs than half an Hour became abſolute Maſters of this mighty Creature, whom I ſhall thus deſcribe.

His ſhape is not much different from that dreadful *Sea*-monſter ſo well known by the Name of the Sea-monſter, his length is about 22 Foot long, and of a Proportionable Bigneſs, his Back full of Prickles like an *Hedge-Hog*, the Skin extream hard, rugged and uneven, his Head flat, and his Mouth extream wide, with many ſharp Teeth, and two of 'em Crocked like a *Wild-Boars*, it hath Eight Fins, with a Forked Tail, and above the Eye two long Black Horns, his fleſh is very Soft, but not one of us being ſo hardy as to Taſt it, I can give you no Account, that deters us from it; is, becauſe the Fleſh of the Sea-monſter is abſolute Poyſon, (cauſing ſtrange Vomitings and Swoonings, and proves Mortal, if not prevented by a good Doſe of *Mithridate*, or ſome other *Antidote*,) which

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this in all things but his Bigneſs exactly Reſembles; ſo that here we conclude him to be an over-grown Sea-Monſter.

The other Monſter I am to deſcribe is a *Sea-Unicorn*, that was likewiſe caſt aſhore as he purſued his Prey, of whom I am alſo an Occular Witneſs; He is about Eighteen Foot long, and in compaſs as big as a Barrel, having Eight great Fins like the Ends of *Galley-Oars*, two of which are placed near the Gills, and the other ſix at the ſides of his Belly at equal diſtances, they are of a Greeniſh ſhining Colour; All the uper part of the Body is cover'd with great Scales, of a Red and Blew Colour, intermixt with Spangles of Silver, the Scales under the Belly are Yellow, the Tail Forked, the Head ſomewhat Bigger than that of a Horſe, the lower part of his Body cover'd with a dark hard Skin, he hath a very ſtreight Horn Iſſuing out of his Head, about Nine Foot and a half in length, Taper to the very Point; Towards the Head it is ſixteen Inches about, wreatched almoſt to the point, it is naturally polliſhed of

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a ſhining Black, marked with ſundry ſmall white and yellow ſtrokes, and of ſuch ſolidy, that 'tis difficult with a ſharp File to get a little ſmall Powder from it, it has no Ears ſtanding up, but two ſpacious Gills, as the other Fiſhes, the Eyes are about the bigneſs of an Hens Egg, the Ball which is of a Skie Colour Enamel'd with yellow, and beneath it another as clear as Chryſtal; The Mouth is wide enough, with ſeveral extream sharp Teeth; the Tongue proportionable, cover'd with a rough Red Skin; The Meat of him is exceeding good when Boyled, and differs not much in Taſt from Fresh Cod.

Before this Sea-monſter could be Maſter'd ſeveral of the Aſſalants received conſiderable damages, for he uſed his Horn with that nimbleneſs and dexterity, and made ſuch deſperate Thurſts, as ſufficiently demonſtrated him to be a Creature of great ſtrength and Courage when in his own Element.

Thus Sir have I Related in the beſt Method

Method I could, what has so lately happen'd among us, begging Pardon in being so Tedious in Describing.

I rest, your much

Mountserrat, *Obliged Servant,*
November,
ad. 1687.

F. H.

FINIS.

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